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- (74) Agent: **POUGMANN & VINGTOFT A/S**; Sundkrugsgade 9, P.O. Box 831, DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø (DK).
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- (71) Applicants (*for all designated States except US*): **RIGSHOSPITALET** [DK/DK]; Blegdamsvej 9, DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø (DK). **UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN** [DK/DK]; Norregade 10, DK-1017 Copenhagen K (DK).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **GÖTZE, Jens, Peter** [DK/DK]; Kildevældsgade 1, DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø (DK). **REHFELD, Jens, F.** [DK/DK]; Esperance Allé 18, DK-2920 Charlottenlund (DK).
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(54) Title: **METHODS FOR DETERMINING LEVELS OF HUMAN B-TYPE NATRIURETIC PEPTIDE PRECURSORS**

(57) **Abstract:** The present invention provides an alternate and more accurate assay for measuring the levels of BNP precursors, or fragments thereof, in a sample by determining the concentration of BNP precursors, or fragments thereof, in a sample obtained from a mammal, the method comprising treating the sample with an agent that cleaves the BNP precursor, and exposing the sample to an antibody that specifically binds to the cleaved product.